



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:

David COATES et al.

Examiner: T. Chowdhury

Serial No.: 09/484,259

Group Art Unit: 2871

Filed: January 18, 2000

Title: HOMEOTROPICALLY ALIGNED LIQUID CRYSTAL LAYER AND
PROCESS FOR THE HOMEOTROPIC ALIGNMENT OF LIQUID
CRYSTALS ON PLASTIC SUBSTRATES

RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

In response to the office action dated May 16, 2002, Applicants elect the species of Example 6, which is consistent with species "A", a liquid crystal film with homeotropic alignment being comprised of an alignment layer made of a smooth Al_2O_3 layer. (Claims 1-4, 9-11, 15, 16 and 20).

Applicants submit that the examination should be extended to aluminum coated substrates since prior searches and examinations in this application were not limited to one of aluminum or aluminum oxide coatings and it has not been shown to be an undue burden to examine both species.

Respectfully submitted,

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Filed: June 17, 2002

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